

IN THE CLAIMS

This claim listing replaces all prior listings:

1. (Currently Amended) A content secondary distribution management system comprising:

a plurality of user devices, which manage secondary distribution in which a transaction of content usable by a user device is performed between said plurality of user devices, wherein,

a first settlement log is issued from a first of the plurality of user devices to one of a service provider and a clearing center every time the content is distributed by the first of the plurality of user device devices to ~~another~~ a second of the plurality of user device devices,

a second settlement log is issued from ~~[[a]]~~ said second of the plurality of user devices to said first of the plurality of user devices and said first of the plurality of user devices issues said second settlement log to said one of a service provider and a clearing center every time the content is distributed by the second of the plurality of user device devices, and

a settlement processing for the content is performed based on both the first settlement log and the second settlement log under the management of said one of a service provider and a clearing center.

2. (Currently Amended) A content secondary distribution management system according to claim 1, wherein:

a content receiving user device for receiving the content from ~~the first user device~~ said first of the plurality of user devices deducts a content usage fee from an electronic money balance disposed in said content receiving user device up to an allowable amount of money set in an issue log based on information of a usage control policy of the content, and said content receiving user device creates a usage log including a content identifier and sends said usage log to said first user device;

said ~~first-user device~~ of the plurality of user devices creates a receive log including information of the content usage fee based on said usage log received from said content receiving user device, and sends said receive log to said one of a service provider and a clearing center;

said one of a service provider and a clearing center performs the settlement processing for the electronic money for the use of the content based on said receive log received from said first ~~user device~~ of the plurality of user devices, and requests an account management institution to perform transfer processing for the content usage fee; and

said account management institution performs the transfer processing according to the transfer request.

3. (Currently Amended) A content secondary distribution management system according to claim 1, wherein the content to be distributed between ~~[[the]]~~ said plurality of user devices is contained in a secure container which stores a content price and information of the usage control policy including profit distribution information which contains information of a profit to a content provider, and ~~wherein~~ said one of the service provider and the clearing center constructs a form of the transfer processing according to a log containing a content fee payer and a content fee receiver based on the profit distribution information.

4. (Currently Amended) A content secondary distribution management system according to claim 2, wherein the usage control policy information includes information indicating whether the secondary distribution of the content between the user devices is allowed, and ~~wherein~~, upon receiving the receive log created for a content in which the secondary distribution is not allowed, said one of the service provider and the clearing center nullifies settlement processing to be performed for said receive log.

5. (Currently Amended) A content secondary distribution management system according to claim 1, wherein each of ~~[[the]]~~ said plurality of user devices for performing the transaction of the content comprises an encryption processing unit, and, when sending and receiving data, mutual authentication processing is performed between the user devices, and the

user devices attach a digital signature to data to be sent and, upon receiving the data, they verify the integrity of the digital signature.

6. (Currently Amended) A content secondary distribution management system according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of user devices, said service provider, and said clearing center comprises an encryption processing unit, and, when sending and receiving data, mutual authentication processing is performed, and said user devices, said service provider, and said clearing center attach a digital signature to data to be sent, and, upon receiving the data, they verify the integrity of the digital signature.

7. (Previously Presented) A content secondary distribution management system according to claim 1, wherein said clearing center comprises a user balance database for managing an electronic money balance of a content receiving user device, and said clearing center creates an issue log in which an allowable amount of money is set up to the electronic money balance registered in said user balance database, and sends said issue log to said content receiving user device.

8. (Currently Amended) A content secondary distribution management system according to claim 2, wherein the usage control policy information includes profit distribution information of the content usage fee, and ~~wherein~~ said usage log and said receive log include the profit distribution information, and said one of the service provider and the clearing center performs the settlement processing for the content usage fee based on the profit distribution information and also sends the transfer request to said account management institution.

9. (Currently Amended) A content secondary distribution management method for managing secondary distribution in which a transaction of content usable by a user device is performed between a plurality of user devices, said content secondary distribution management method comprising the steps of:

issuing a first settlement log for the use of the content from a first of the plurality of user devices to one of a service provider and a clearing center every time the content is distributed by the first user device to ~~another~~ a second of the plurality of user device devices;

issuing a second settlement log for the use of the content from ~~[[a]]~~ the second of the plurality of user devices to said first of the plurality of user devices every time the content is distributed by the second of the plurality of user device devices;

issuing said second settlement log for the use of the content from said first of the plurality of user devices to said one of a service provider and a clearing center every time the content is distributed by the second of the plurality of user device devices; and

performing settlement processing for the content based on the first settlement log and the second settlement log under the management of said one of a service provider and a clearing center.

10. (Currently Amended) A content secondary distribution management method according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

deducting a content usage fee from an electronic money balance disposed in a content receiving user device up to an allowable amount of money set in an issue log based on information of a usage control policy of the content;

creating a usage log including a content identifier;

sending said usage log to said first ~~user device~~ of the plurality of user devices;

creating a receive log including information of the content usage fee based on said usage log received from said content receiving user device;

sending said receive log to said one of a service provider and a clearing center;

performing the settlement processing for the electronic money for the use of the content based on said receive log received from said first of the plurality of user device devices;

requesting an account management institution to perform transfer processing for the content usage fee; and
performing the transfer processing according to the transfer request.

11. (Currently Amended) A content secondary distribution management method according to claim 9, wherein the content to be distributed between ~~[[the]]~~ said plurality of user devices is contained in a secure container which stores a content price and information of a usage control policy including profit distribution information which contains information of a profit to a content provider, the method further comprising the step of constructing a form of the transfer processing according to a log containing a content fee payer and a content fee receiver based on the profit distribution information.

12. (Currently Amended) A content secondary distribution management method according to claim 10, wherein the usage control policy information includes information indicating whether the secondary distribution of the content between ~~[[the]]~~ said plurality of user devices is allowed, and ~~wherein~~, upon receiving the receive log created for a content in which the secondary distribution is not allowed, the method further comprising the step of nullifying settlement processing to be performed for said receive log.

13. (Currently Amended) A content secondary distribution management method according to claim 9, wherein each of the user devices for performing the transaction of the content comprises an encryption processing unit, and, when sending and receiving data, the method further comprising the step of performing mutual authentication processing between ~~[[the]]~~ said plurality of user devices, and attaching a digital signature to data to be sent.

14. (Currently Amended) A content secondary distribution management method according to claim 9, wherein each of said plurality of user devices, said service provider, and said clearing center comprises an encryption processing unit, and, when sending and receiving

data, the method further comprising the steps of (1) performing mutual authentication processing, and (2) attaching a digital signature to data to be sent.

15. (Currently Amended) A content secondary distribution management method according to claim 9, wherein said clearing center comprises a user balance database for managing an electronic money balance of said content receiving user device, the method further comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

creating an issue log in which an allowable amount of money is set up to the electronic money balance registered in said user balance database; and
sending said issue log to said content receiving user device.

16. (Currently Amended) A content secondary distribution management method according to claim 10, wherein the usage control policy information includes profit distribution information of the content usage fee, and ~~wherein~~ said usage log and said receive log include the profit distribution information, the method further comprising the step of:

performing the settlement processing for the content usage fee based on the profit distribution information; and
sending the transfer request to said account management institution.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored therein computer-executable instructions which allows content secondary distribution management processing for managing secondary distribution in which a transaction of content usable by a user device is performed between a plurality of user devices to run on a computer system, said computer-readable medium for performing the steps of:

issuing a first settlement log for the use of the content from a first of the plurality of user devices to one of a service provider and a clearing center every time the content is distributed by the first user device to ~~another~~ second of the plurality of user device devices;

issuing a second settlement log for the use of the content from ~~[[a]]~~ the second of the plurality of user devices to said first of the plurality of user devices every time the content is distributed by the second of the plurality of user ~~device~~ devices; and

issuing said second settlement log for the use of the content from said first of the plurality of user devices to said one of a service provider and a clearing center every time the content is distributed by the second of the plurality of user ~~device~~ devices; and

performing settlement processing for the content based on the first settlement log and the second settlement log under the management of said one of a service provider and a clearing center.

18. – 83. (Cancelled).